

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N County Street,
Waukegan, IL 60085*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

1:00 PM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor

Ethics and Oversight Committee

1. Call to Order

Chair Pedersen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present 6 - Chair Pedersen, Member Calabresa, Member Taylor, Member Wilke, Member Danforth and Member Wyatt

Absent 1 - Vice Chair Mathias

Others present:

Zacharis P Beatts, Knollwood Fire Department

Amy Bernstein, Lake County Resident

Teresa Caringello, Lake County Resident

Erin Cartwright-Weinstein, Circuit Court Clerk

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

Karen Fox, State's Attorney Office

Gwen Gernin, Lake County Resident

John Harlow, Lake County Resident

Heidie Hernandez, County Board Office

Moe Knesley, Lake County Resident

Susan Malter, Lake County Resident

Amy McEwan, Deputy County Administrator

Constantina Papas Boufis, Lake County Resident

Gust Papas, Lake County Resident

Nick Papas, Lake County Resident

Ashley Payne, Lake County Resident

Maria Peterson, Lake County Resident

Wayne Spath, Lake County Resident

Jennie Vana, Communications

Jessie Vealitzee, Lake County Resident

Blanca Vela-Schneider, County Board Office

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Wayne Wolter, Lake County Resident

Ed Whitehead, Lake County Resident

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pedersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes**3.1 [18-1019](#)**

Minutes from May 2, 2017.

Attachments: [EOC 5.2.17 Minutes Final](#)

A motion was made by Member Wyatt, seconded by Member Calabresa, that this minutes be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

Aye: 5 - Chair Pedersen, Member Calabresa, Member Taylor, Member Wilke and Member Wyatt

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Mathias

Not Present: 1 - Member Danforth

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

5. Public Comment

Susan Malter, Lake County Resident, suggested that the county provide stronger guidelines and increase clarity in its ethics regulations.

(Member Danforth arrived at 1:05 p.m.)

Ms. Malter recommended that vendor disclosure forms be insitituted to increase transparency of campaign contributions to county board members.

John Harlow, Lake County County Resident, identified the nontransparent and unethical activity in which he believed Rockland Fire Protection District Board, and in particular, Dan Rogers, have been participating.

Ed Whitehead, former president of the Rockland Fire Protection District, reviewed his concerns with Dan Rogers' ethical behavior.

6. Chairman's Remarks

Chair Pedersen indicated that prior to reviewing whether Mr. Rogers has violated the County's standards of conduct, it needed to review how the process will be conducted.

7. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

8. New Business

8.1 [18-1092](#)

Discussion and approval of rules and procedures to handle a Standard of Conduct complaint.

Assistant County Administrator Dakisha Wesley provided the committee with drafts of the complaint handling procedures, rules of procedure for hearings, and complaint form.

The draft complaint handling procedures will serve as a guide for staff and the Ethics and Oversight Chair to use in handling an incoming complaint including how it will be reviewed, the process process for a public hearing and the process in which the findings will be released.

Ms. Wesley indicated that the complaint form, upon approval of the committee, will be

placed on the County's website. It is recommended that the County accept forms submitted via the webpage, in person, by mail, and by fax.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the form must include the complainant's name. Member Calabresa indicated that there needs to be the ability to contact the complainant to solicit additional information. Member Danforth indicated that the committee needed to be cognizant of the whistle blower laws which allows complaints to be submitted anonymously. He indicated that requiring an individual to identify him/herself, could discourage a complaint from being submitted. Member Wyatt agreed that there is a need for discretion. Member Wilke indicated that it is the committee's job to determine if a complaint is valid. County Board Member Sandy Hart indicated the state requires the county to fulfill Freedom of Information Act requests from anonymous submitters.

Karen Fox, State's Attorney's Office, indicated that the process for today focuses on the process in which the committee will handle Standards of Conduct complaints against appointed committee/commission members. The County has an Ethics ordinance that identifies the process in which it handles complaints for County elected officials.

Ms. Wesley reviewed the process in which a complaint will be accepted, reviewed, and considered by the Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of notification to the committee regarding alleged complaints and when information will be provided to the committee members. The consensus was to provide public documents and a staff summary ahead of time.

Ms. Wesley reviewed the process in which the committee would consider whether a potential violation of the Standards of Conduct has occurred. If the committee determines that there is no substantive evidence to reflect a violation of the Committee during Executive Session, the Committee will vote outside of Executive Session to dismiss the allegations. If the Committee finds that a violation potentially occurred, they will vote outside of Executive Session to hold a public hearing to allow the defendant and complainant to provide testimony and/or submit additional evidence. Ms. Wesley reviewed the timing of such notifications and hearings.

Staff will modify the draft documents to reflect discussion at the committee meeting.

9. Executive Session

Because the procedures had not been finalized, Executive Session was tabled until Tuesday, October 2, 2018.

9.1 [18-1017](#)

Executive Session to discuss the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)3.

This item was continued until October 2, 2018.

This item was deferred until the October 2, 2018 Ethics and Oversight Committee

meeting.

9.1A [18-1018](#)

Committee action on whether a possible violation of the Standards of Conduct has occurred.

This matter was postponed to the October 2, 2018.

10. County Administrator's Report

There was no report from the County Administrator.

11. Members' Remarks

There were no remarks from members.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Member Calabresa, seconded by Member Taylor, to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, October 2, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 6 - Chair Pedersen, Member Calabresa, Member Taylor, Member Wilke, Member Danforth and Member Wyatt

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Mathias

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Meeting minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Ethics and Oversight Committee